


MAY 1949

 BIBLE  
SOCIETY

# Record



Bishop Eivind Berggrav, President, United Bible Societies

(See Page 67)





# The Society's Officers Honored

On March 28, 1949 Her Majesty, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, presented, through the Honorable Dr. W. Cnopp Koopmans, Consul General of the Netherlands, the insignia of an Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau to both General Secretary Eric M. North and Treasurer Gilbert Darlington of the American Bible Society. The award is given "in recognition of the valuable services to the Netherlands cause rendered in their capacities as Officers of the American Bible Society." The presentation was made before a specially invited group of members and friends of the Bible Society at the Manhattan home of Dr. Koopmans.

During the recent war, when the Netherlands Bible Society was cut off from the East Indies, where it carried on extensive work in the translation, publication and distribution of the Scriptures, the American Bible Society, at the request of the Netherlands Society, undertook to guide the work there. There are 1,500,000 Christians, speaking many different languages, in the Netherlands East Indies.

The American Bible Society succeeded in sending one shipment of 20 tons of Bible paper and also a second shipment of 25 tons of paper and binding materials for use in the publication of Scriptures in the local languages. The latter arrived just before the Japanese invaded the Islands. The Society also supplied funds with which to keep the work going.

From part of this paper supply the East Indies Bible Society was able to produce copies of the Dutch New Testament printed for the Dutch internees.



Left to right: Dr. Koopmans, Dr. North, Dr. Darlington

These are reported to be the only Dutch books printed under the Japanese control of the Indies.

Since the end of the Second World War the American Bible Society has been assisting the Netherlands Bible Society in Amsterdam by further supplies of materials and office machinery.

In his response Secretary North referred to the long and happy association of the two Societies in pursuing their common cause of making the Scriptures available with missionary purpose to people who otherwise would never have them.

## During 1948 the Society—

- distributed at home and abroad 846,319 Bibles, 8,441 Testaments and 7,481,491 Portions, a total of 9,716,251 volumes;
- reached a total of nearly 20,000,000 volumes, issued through its World Emergency program in 8½ years, and distributed to service men, prisoners of war, displaced persons and civilian populations in Europe and Asia;
- issued more whole Bibles from the Bible House in New York than in any other year;
- exceeded any other year in distribution to the blind, sending out 16,182 volumes and Talking Book records;
- lowered its prices on many English Scriptures;
- rejoiced in a still further expansion of Worldwide Bible Reading, Thanksgiving to Christmas, both nationally and internationally;
- effected greatly enlarged publishing programs in both Germany and Japan through the supply of paper and binding materials;

- participated in the inauguration of the "Bible Society of Brazil" and the publication there of the first issues "A Biblia no Brasil," a quarterly news magazine Portuguese;
- made available a motion picture on its work for the blind, entitled "Thy Word Giveth Light";
- adopted the largest budget in its history in the face of its greatest opportunity to serve the world's Bible need
- but faced the necessity of seeking in 1949, in addition to Regular and Supplementary Budgets totaling \$2,509,900, additional sum of \$1,526,025 to meet continuing World War Emergencies.

### Board of Managers, Report Available

As this issue of the *Bible Society Record* goes to press, the Board of Managers' Report for 1948 is just about ready for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society, May 12. The edition of the report, attractively bound as an illustrated brochure entitled "More To Be Desired Than Gold", is limited, but copies will be sent as long as the supply lasts to anyone who sends ten cent stamps to cover handling and postage.



# Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE  
HOLY SCRIPTURES

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## Never Before—So Many Together

*A call to prayer for the Bible Societies of the World, United*

IN JUNE of this year in New York, there will be gathered more representatives of more national Bible Societies in one place than have ever met together in the whole history of Christendom.

Beginning on June 6, the American Bible Society will be host to the United Bible Societies in New York, the first such gathering in the Western Hemisphere. *Record* readers have followed the historic meetings which have brought into being the United Bible Societies during the past three years. London, Amsterdam, Glasgow—and now New York! (See issues of September 1946, October 1947, October 1948).

To act as chairman will come the wartime hero of Norway, Bishop Eivind Berggrav, Primate of Norway and President of the Norwegian Bible Society. There will come Secretary Arthur Wilkinson of England, Dr. W. C. Somerville of Scotland, Dean Olle Nystedt of Sweden, Secretary W. J. Platt for New Zealand, Rev. L. Harts of Belgium, Bishop C. W. Noack of Denmark, Dr. Herman C. Rutgers of the Netherlands, Secretary W. H. Hudspeth of Canada, Rev. Shiro Murata of Japan, Secretary Toivo Winter of Finland, Rev. Chandu Ray, representing India, Pakistan and Ceylon, and Rev. Victor Bode from Germany. All of these are officially connected with the Bible Society in each country. In addition to this widely representative group it is hoped that a delegate may come from Czechoslovakia.

Besides the official delegates there will also be official visitors from Brazil, China, Korea and the Netherlands Indies. Fraternal delegates from the international Christian groups will attend.

These men, with their fellow officials of the American Bible Society, are men of one mind,

their lives dedicated to the high purpose of making the Scriptures effectively available to all mankind, the very foundation-wall of world evangelization. Amid the many voices clamoring for the filling of this need or that, these counselors will discuss the dissemination of the sure Word of God for these days—its translation, its publication, its distribution and its use the world around.

Immediately prior to the meeting of the United Bible Societies, the American Bible Society District and Division Secretaries serving the home field will meet to plan for increasing the distribution and use of the Scriptures here in our own land. They will be joined by the Field Secretaries, and by certain state and local Bible Society executives. Joint sessions with United Bible Society delegates are being planned.

As all these leaders come together, New York will be, for that period, the focal point of Bible interest for the entire world.

Well may the delegates feel fixed upon them the eyes of Scripture-needy people in every corner of the world. Certainly, wherever the voice of man can speak upon our spinning sphere, be it China, India, Africa, Japan, Latin America, Europe, or the islands of the sea, the familiar cry of Jeremiah's prophecy rises with fresh insistence: "Where is the word of the Lord? Let it come now!"

Let the readers of the *Bible Society Record*, Bible-loving people everywhere, Christians in every church around the world, join in a chorus of prayer that the God who gave the Book may move on the minds and direct the plans of this great host who publish it today.

So may June 1949, the Spirit being willing, become a significant milestone in the long highway where the Book goes forth.



# The Kidnaping of a Colporteur

*And how a stout faith and a ready knowledge of God's Word prevailed to save one man from death  
and put several would-be criminals on the way toward Life*

BY H. T. MARROQUÍN

COLPORTEUR Valentín Dorantes was sitting one day on a public park bench reading his Bible; to that same bench other persons would come and sit a while also. Thus the colporteur availed himself of the opportunity of inviting his benchmates to listen to the reading of some Scripture passages, to which he would add pertinent questions or comments. He sold a book or two in that way in a rather short while. Then came another man who asked the colporteur: "Are you selling Bibles?" "Yes," replied Dorantes, "not so much for the money, but for the good of the people." The man then told the colporteur that if he would go to his ranch on the edge of a nearby village, he was sure that he would sell six or eight Bibles. He gave Sr. Dorantes his name and exact address. When that same afternoon Dorantes found the place, everybody was evidently expecting him; but to his surprise, with criminal intent. The man who had invited him now said to him: "This is exactly what I wanted, for you alone to be caught in the trap!" He then gave him a brutal kick and took him back to the barn, where two other men were waiting to help him to do away with Dorantes. The kidnaper had a pistol with him. His two companions had great knives. The chief plotter ordered two of his young boys to dig a hole in the ground in which to bury his victim. He then showed the colporteur the cartridge barrel of his pistol, loaded with bullets, and added: "You are going to swallow all of these bullets after a while." The colporteur replied: "If God permits you to do so; otherwise you won't, because I am not alone." "You watch and see," added the owner of the ranch in an angry manner, "for I am going to sink them all in your head!"

The ranchman's wife and a young daughter were approving witnesses of all this and even added, "This disgraceful old man, when we went to town, gave us a little book which he said was the Word of God; we tore it into pieces and threw it in his face."

After a good while the boys who were digging the grave came back to tell their father that it was ready. The ranchman asked his wife and daughter to go into the house, and at the same time he pushed the colporteur roughly towards the edge of the grave, hitting him on the head. The colporteur got hold of his bag of books, but the man angrily snatched it from his hands and pushed him ahead, saying that he was going to burn the books and put them in the same grave. At this point Colporteur Dorantes, standing by the edge of the grave, said to the ranchman:

"Any person who is sentenced to death for any reason is given a chance to say a few words to express his last will, and that is my petition now." The wife and the daughter, who were still there, asked the ranchman to let him speak. And so he was given his chance. With boldness and faith in God, Dorantes said: "You say that the books I have are false. No, sirs, these books are true and contain the Good News of salvation. The Lord is having compassion on you. He does not want your souls to be lost; and that is why God permitted me to come, to tell you that there is no other name under heaven in which you can be saved, only Jesus Christ. Let it be clear in your minds and hearts what I have already explained to you, that only by believing in Christ can you be saved. But you do not want to hear me. You may accomplish your wish by killing me, but when we meet up yonder on the Judgment Day in the presence of Christ, of whom I have been speaking to you, you will have no excuse, nor can you allege ignorance. Really, it doesn't matter if I die, if it is for His cause." Just then one of them who had a huge knife in his hand, said with a sneer, "Evidently this disgraceful man is not afraid of dying." Dorantes replied: "Why should I be afraid, if it is for Christ's sake." He was then permitted to take one of the Bibles out of his bag, and to read from it. The Spirit of the Lord directed him to a few passages. He read John 3:14-18 and 1 Cor. 13:4-8. He then made brief comments and exhorted the group to accept His salvation and to practice love instead of hatred, reminding them that they were despising the precious blood of God's Son who died in our stead. "My blood," Dorantes added, "would only accuse you. You and I will meet sooner or later, at the Judgment throne on that great day. God is here now, seeing and hearing all of what you are doing, saying and planning against one of your brothers. Repent, and He will forgive you. Otherwise you are lost. That's all I wanted to say."

Right then and there the girl, daughter of the ranchman, began to cry aloud, embracing her mother and asking pitifully: "Don't kill him; see how beautifully he has told us about our dear God, see how it isn't true what the priest has said, that these men are against God. Don't kill him; let him go, poor fellow." Then the woman, with tears running down her cheeks, embraced her husband the ranchman, and the daughter did likewise, begging him to let Sr. Dorantes alone. Again and again the woman pleaded with Dorantes thus: "Keep on telling them, so that



may understand." Suddenly the angry ranchman became quiet. He put his pistol in its leather sheath hanging from his waist and took out of his pocket his handkerchief to dry a tear or two from his own eyes. Dorantes read to them all from Ephesians 14-16, with a few simple explanations. One of the men, who happened to be a nephew of the ranchman, said to Dorantes, "You don't mean to tell us that you have already been to heaven and returned to tell us things from heaven." The colporteur replied: "Christ came from heaven to teach us the way; but it happens quite often that we are ungrateful." At this juncture the ranchman said to the colporteur: "Don't worry; nothing will happen to you now. If there is anybody that would dare to molest you in any way, here I am to defend you; I really thought

that you were one of those who go about here and there, cheating the people; but I am convinced that you speak the truth. Nothing will happen to you, and I will see that no one around here molests you." Dorantes replied: "If you have understood, get yourself a Bible so that you will know the truth that saves." The ranchman purchased one immediately. The woman and her daughter then took the colporteur to the kitchen and gave him a few corn cakes to eat when he would feel hungry on his way. The whole group then accompanied Dorantes to the nearby bus stop, where they happily bade him good-bye. Colporteur Dorantes gives the glory to God for this victory of His gracious protection, and for the power of His Word, which once again has not returned unto Him void.

## Bibles Between Heaven and Earth

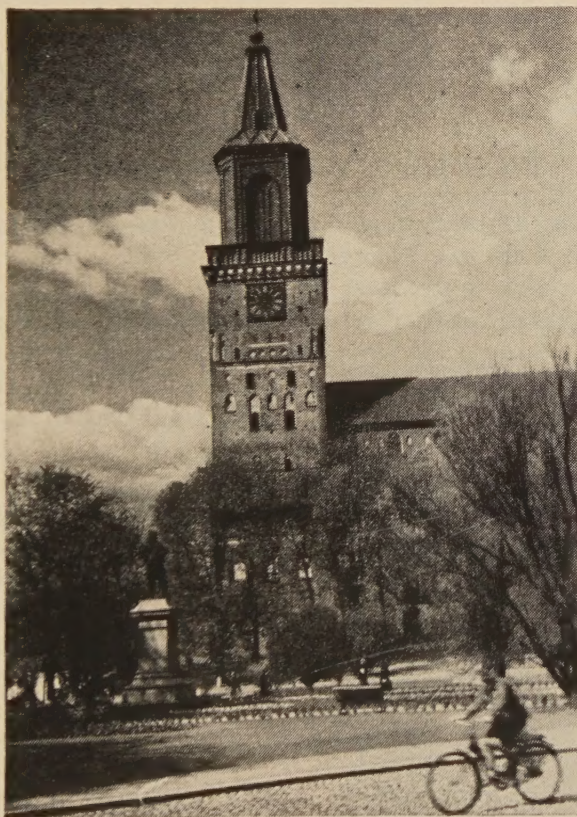
*The Society's Secretary in Geneva reports on the progress being made by the Finnish Bible Society, and introduces our readers to its energetic Secretary*

BY OLIVIER BÉGUIN

THE CITY of Turku is the seat of the Primate of Finland, the center of Finnish ecclesiastical life, and the headquarters of the Finnish Bible Society. It is an old Nordic city with nothing outstanding, nothing very picturesque about it. In the center of the town, surrounded by a park and approached by an imposing flight of steps, stands the cathedral, majestic and dignified in the simplicity of Gothic style. It is one of the oldest churches in Finland; is no doubt the most famous and is certainly the most worthy of respect. Its tower can be seen from afar, dominating the whole countryside.

The Turku Cathedral tower serves more than one purpose—today it is the stock room of the Finnish Bible Society!

Getting up to the tower is rather a complicated business. First of all, one must go up to the organ gallery, then he has to climb a small spiral staircase



*Bibles Behind the Clock*

cut in the wall. Arriving at the top, rather out of breath and dazed, the sight that greets the puffing climber is unexpected, to say the least: rows and rows of Bibles and New Testaments set out on shelves! The view from the tower is no doubt very fine, but it is bitterly cold up there, and the handling of cases and parcels of Scriptures is not exactly an easy task! They all have to be pulled up from the entrance to the cathedral through a trap door by means of a pulley, and they all go down the same way.

Dean Toivo Winter, General Secretary of the Finnish Bible Society, smiled when he saw the look of surprise on my face. "Now you understand why we want to build a Bible House in a more accessible location!"

The Finnish Bible Society not only needs a stock room, which it is impossible to find at present, owing to the shortage of houses and buildings, but she also needs a depot where people



can come and buy their Bibles, offices where visitors can be received, receptions and meetings held when necessary and, last but not least, a home for the General Secretary, who at the moment is forced to

"camp out" with his family in a tiny two-room apartment. Last autumn the American Bible Society sent a gift of 22,000 pounds of coffee to the Finnish Bible Society. (See *Bible Society Record*, January 1949, page 8). When the coffee was sold under the name of "Agricola Coffee," it brought

in 15 million Finnish marks—ten times more than if the price of the coffee had been sent to Finland in dollars. Although this money alone is not sufficient to purchase the land and build a Bible House, it will nevertheless cover one third of the costs. But its psychological effect is incalculable. People everywhere are still talking about the Bible coffee, even though the taste of it may now be no more than a memory on the palates of the Finns! Everywhere there is rejoicing at the help thus received, and all are anxious to add their contributions. Thanks to this help, it looks as if the dream cherished for so long will soon take shape and become a reality.

When we got back to the hotel after our visit to the tower, Dean Winter showed me an empty space opposite the main post office. "That is where we hope to build," said he. "We are counting on you to be with us for the opening ceremony in two years' time!"

Toivo Winter—'Toivo' is the Finnish word for 'hope.' Is that not a happy choice of name for the General Secretary of a Bible Society on the threshold of new life and vigor!



Dean Toivo Winter

## Sowing the Seed in a Whole State

*How two hundred Pastors made their Summer Months count for the spreading of the Gospel because they were organized and inspired to meet a Great Challenge*

BY BENJAMIN H. SMITH

THE SOCIETY'S Southern District, covering the states of Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, undertakes a special project each year. For 1948 the project was to organize every church and community in the State of South Carolina for a Bible-reading crusade.

Since the state is largely rural, it was proposed to get all the pastors of each denomination to carry the plan to the rural as well as the urban communities. Cultivation began and was pointed toward a concerted effort in the months of June, July and August.

In the month of May each pastor was given detailed plans for the crusade, and key pastors were asked to take the matter up with ministerial associations. They were told how to begin the program, how to find homes that might need Bibles and how the Society would cooperate with them in supplying the Gospels and Bibles for the Bibleless homes, with the reading of which the crusade opened.

The plan consisted largely of a simple organization for interesting the church membership first, and through them the whole community, in at least reading a Gospel and attending the church services where the crusade was centered. At the church services a check was made on the progress of the reading and

people who finished a Gospel were encouraged to begin reading more extensively in their Bibles.

After the first stage, which was an effort to get the largest possible number of people to read a single Gospel, the people were encouraged to begin to read and study the whole Bible. They were told how much they would have to read daily to read the Bible through in one year, and how much to read the New Testament through in a month; and in this way many were launched on regular reading plans such as they never thought of before.

The next step was taken in local churches where more than one person began to read according to one of the suggested plans. Such people were brought together into a Bible Reading fellowship. These fellowships helped to create a continuous promotion of Bible reading in the church and community.

Reports were received all during the active period from those who might need Bibles in their homes. In each community a committee was appointed to ascertain what homes in the community might not have a good readable Bible. Such homes were then approached and offered a Bible at cost. The District Office offered to provide these Bibles at 25 percent less than cost for the Bibleless homes, provided the



cal group would make a thorough effort to locate all homes needing Bibles and would deliver them to the people. In this way the church people did not lose money in this project. If they were glad to get the community supplied and did not want to sell the Bibles but give them, they got them for this purpose or less than cost.

Of the nearly two hundred pastors who worked in this crusade, most of them did it in a careful manner and tried to avoid waste. Some even returned to the Office any Gospels they had left over. Quite a number not only paid for their Gospels but sent in contributions to the work of the Society. This offers concrete proof that this type work does lasting good. When a pastor feels that he should take an offering and send it along to help the work in other fields, or when, as it happened in some churches, the pastor sent his personal contribution to help the Society because he felt that this work was so worth while, we are made to see that there is a lasting impression which will continue to benefit the Society in all sections where this type work is carried on. In fact, it is very evident that in the areas where these crusades have been conducted there are better sales to the churches and a better feeling toward the Society.

The plan of handling the local crusades this year has been far superior to the plan of other years. The work done was not only more extensive but was more thorough and was completed at less expense to the Society than other similar projects. It is estimated from the reports received that:

The 130,000 Gospels distributed were read.  
At least 45,000 others read the Gospel from their own Bibles.  
Nearly 20,000 New Testaments were distributed.

4. Between five and six hundred Bibles were placed in Bibleless homes.

5. Between ninety and one hundred thousand homes were touched by the Crusade.

When we take into account the fact that the State of South Carolina is largely rural, and the enormous effort required for the pastors to reach the open country districts and especially the mountain areas of the State, we have the highest admiration for the ministers who did this work. Many of them gave all the summer months to the task. Some rural ministers serve as many as six churches, and to reach their people they had to make six separate efforts.

There have come to the District Office many letters commending the work, and from some areas, for a repetition of the program another year. One of the real problems of the District Office is in discontinuing a crusade when the end of the period comes. Many churches want to continue beyond the period set aside by the District. This is due to the fact that a pastor occasionally could not cooperate at the time assigned, but could put it on in his community at a later date. Even since 1949 has come in, some pastors have written wanting to put on the Bible Reading effort in their churches because they were unable to do so in 1948.

These carefully planned special efforts sell the work of the Society to the mass of people in a most promising way. The crusade takes the work directly to vast numbers who have never heard of the Bible Society, and as they learn of its work they become potential users of the Bibles produced by the Society. These crusades also stimulate people to give to the Society who heretofore never considered giving because they knew nothing of its work.

A pulpit Bible was recently presented to the new Fleet Chapel of the Headquarters of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet at Norfolk, Va. Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, U.S.N., Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, received the gift at a special service attended by members of his staff and many others. Fleet Chaplain S. W. Salisbury, U.S.N., planned the service and presided. The presentation on behalf of the Society was by its Secretary for Bible Use, J. V. Claypool, who also preached the dedicatory sermon.

It was appropriate for Secretary Claypool to represent the Society on this occasion, as he served the last part of the war as Chaplain of the Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va. and was known to many present at the service. His remarks noted the fact that though chaplains conduct divine services in various ways, yet all unite in using the Bible; and every service has Bible reading.

Calls upon the Society for copies of the Scriptures for men in the armed services and at veterans' hospitals continue unabated. The requests from chaplains for



*Left to right: Chaplain Salisbury, Admiral Blandy, Secretary Claypool*

copies of the Scriptures greatly exceeded the allotment in the 1948 budget, but are nevertheless always filled.



# "What Are These Among So Many?"

*A story revealing the need for the Gospel among the 700,000 refugees who have fled Palestine in the Twentieth-Century reenactment of the Conquest of Canaan*

BY F. LYMAN MACCALLUM

**T**HE PRESSURE was so much that we were afraid that they would smash us, the car and everything with us." So Mr. Accad, Subagent for Syria and the Lebanon, begins his account of distributing Gospels in a refugee camp near Sidon. Accompanying him were the Rev. John D. Crose, Field Secretary of the Church of God Mission Board, and Mr. Elia Sahuni of the American Presbyterian Mission.

Who were these refugees, struggling barefoot in the snow for a free Gospel? Most of us are familiar with the story of the conquest of Canaan by the Twelve Tribes under Joshua's fierce command. Less familiar is the thought that the same drama is being repeated in these very days. The land is now called Palestine, and the approach is not from the desert but from

car had come with 800 Gospels for free distribution. This is the story merely of one day's work.

It took the shouting and pushing of a couple of friendly camp police to get the crowd away from the car and into some sort of line, where each applicant had to prove that he could read before the book became his. But those who could not pass this test were so insistent, that they were also given copies when they promised to have these read to them. "By dividing into three groups we were better able to neutralize the pressure of the crowds," writes Dr. Crose. When someone cried out that these were books for Christians, one of the police answered cheerfully, "Mister, I am a Christian-and-a-half; I am due a full New Testament, not just a Gospel." He got his wish, even though he was a Druse, not a Christian; but he had long wanted to read the New Testament for himself. In a very short time the 400 Gospels set aside for this camp had each found an owner. Many uplifted hands were still empty as the party drove off, buying their liberty with promises to return soon with a larger supply.

At the second camp a different plan was followed. The crowd was told that books would be given out only at the tent doors, one copy to each of the two or more families living within. At once the crowd scattered to their shelters to await God's postman. Mr.



*Mr. Accad (bareheaded) among refugees and police in snow-whitened camp*

the western sea. The people of the land, to be destroyed or driven out, are now Arabs, of whom some are Christians but the great majority Moslems. Over 700,000 have been driven out by force or fear, to spend the severe winter of 1948-9 in camps where three and four families must find shelter—in one tent, in crowded tenements, or even in holes in the rocks. There they wait, everything lost, while the world wonders a little uneasily what to do about them. It was to some 40,000 of these people, lodged in two camps near the city of Sidon, that the mission

*This pitiable den houses a refugee family and—we hope—a Gospel*





Accad reports, "Very quickly again our 400 Gospels vanished like a drop of water in that great ocean of needs, and we had again to leave the disappointed crowds with the promise of returning. As we drove back to Beirut in the evening, we were filled with joy at the thought of the seed sown, seed which will surely bring forth fruit for the glory of God. Mixed with our joy was a deep sensation of grief for all the suffering we had seen, as well as for the cries of so many who wanted the Gospel and whom we had been unable to satisfy."

Dr. Crose adds, "All who have known the great personal joy and comfort of the grace of God can

*The Gospel comes to tent doors in Lebanon*



*The little girl at extreme right smiles as she reads her Gospel.  
In the center the boy displays the copy he has won*

imagine the thrill we found in working together with the Bible Society's splendid staff and colporteurs in this blessed ministry. We have been nobly assisted by some of the pastors and spiritual workers from Palestine, who are themselves refugees and can genuinely sympathize with their fellow exiles."

The Society was able to appropriate fourteen hundred dollars for Scripture distribution among refugees from Palestine. Readers of the *Record* can estimate how long this sum will last among these eager thousands. What then? Is the work worth going on with in the history-making days to come—?

## Good Word from Greece

MR. GEORGE KLADIS, the Society's Subagent for Greece, begins his report for 1948 with a fervent word of thanksgiving that, amid all the misery and suffering to which such large sections of the country have continued to be subjected, the work of Scripture distribution has reached the highest level ever known in Greece. Although civil war still rends the land and the finest youth of the country are still wasted in the fires of fratricidal struggle, and while 50,000 people—one in ten of the entire population—are homeless within the borders of their own country, yet religious activity and interest in the wide circulation of the Scriptures continues to increase. In all the modern history of Greece, there has never been so much activity directed toward awakening the people to spiritual truth. Not Churches and other religious organizations alone, but individuals all over the country are devoting themselves to the work as never before. The total Scripture circulation in Greece for 1948 was 3,982 Bibles, 13,327 New Testaments and 215,240 Gospels. The total Testaments will show a much larger circulation for 1949 as the American Bible Society is supplying 150,000 and the

British and Foreign Bible Society 50,000 for distribution to the army at the earnest request of its general headquarters.



*The members of this church, which was built more than a decade ago by the non-leper employees of the Philippine Government at the Culi6n Leper Colony in the Philippines, are probably the only ones—aside from their brethren in the colony proper—that observe Thanksgiving Day even since the country has become independent of the United States. The special cash collections on that day, with the exception of the three years under Japanese occupation, have always been given to the Manila Office of the American Bible Society*



# Mr. Love of Siam

*He had never sung a hymn nor heard a sermon or a public prayer. He did not know what the word baptism meant, but he had long ago accepted Christ as his Saviour from reading the Gospel of Matthew*

BY ASHER B. CASE

FAR UP in the mountains of northeastern Siam live a people called the Poo Tai, which literally means the Mountain Siamese. Just as the mountaineers in the Appalachian ranges in America pride themselves on their pure American heritage, so these Mountain Siamese are proud of theirs. Many of them are of much fairer complexion than the Siamese of the plains. The young women have a distinct beauty. Many of the old women wear long hair in a topknot instead of the closely cropped hair of the usual Siamese woman, and many have pretty white teeth, for betelnut chewing is not so common among these mountain people. Every village has a government school, and all the younger people and most of the men can read Siamese, for which we are very thankful, as no new translation will be necessary. We were able to sell hundreds of Scripture portions. The spoken language, however, is a mixture of Siamese and their own dialect. The officials told us that they are a peace-loving people, excellent citizens, and are content in their isolation. Very few have been to the outside world. Their wants are few, though they are a prosperous people and many homes have two and even three rice bins.

These people have never had the Gospel. They are located almost a hundred miles from our station, and in fact we did not know such a group existed until a government official from that county visited us in our home. He told us that no missionary nor evangelist had ever been in his county, but that one old man did have three books and believed in Jesus. We wondered just how much he believed, but we hoped that with this contact we might be able to lead him to the Lord. The way opened for us to visit Kujinarai County in January and to meet this old man, Nai Hak (Mr. Love). He said he was 84 years old and he spoke with a rather harsh, loud voice, as he was quite hard of hearing. However, his eyesight was excellent and he was nimble on his feet. He brought out his three books and proudly showed them to us. Two were



*Mr. Love displays his precious Gospel*

little mission publications, but the third was the prize, for it was a copy of the Gospel of Matthew printed in 1932 by the American Bible Society and distributed in Korat, some three hundred miles to the south. It bore the stamp of Rev. Seng Saa, then the home missionary of the National Church to Korat. Mr. Love had never been away from home, but said that a traveling official had given him the book, saying that it was a good book to read. There was no question but that Mr. Love had read and reread it, for the pages were ragged and covered with fingerprints and the book had been re-covered to save it from falling to pieces.

His relatives told us that after breakfast Mr. Love would take his books and go visiting through the village, reading and telling his friends the story of Jesus. In the course of our conversation he told us that some people worship a certain star in the east. Our evangelist began to tell the story of the wise men following the star, as recorded in Matthew; but he had barely begun when Mr. Love took up the story and completed its telling in detail. Later he described the trial of Jesus, the false

witnesses, Herod, the crucifixion and the resurrection, and closed by saying "Jesus died for the sins of the world." I asked him, "Nai Hak, do you believe that Jesus died for your sins?" He answered emphatically, "I do."

Mr. Love's relatives told us that he never worked on Sunday but made a special day of the Sa-ba-ra-to as he called the Sabbath. On Sunday we gathered at his home for his very first worship service. He had never heard a hymn before; he had never heard a Christian message; he had never heard a prayer, but how he did enjoy listening through it all! When we asked him if he knew how to pray, he turned to Matthew 6 immediately. The word "baptism" in Siamese is transliterated, so it is not surprising he did not understand it; but as soon as we explained it he was ready to be baptized. After the service in the house he led us to a pool fed by mountain spring

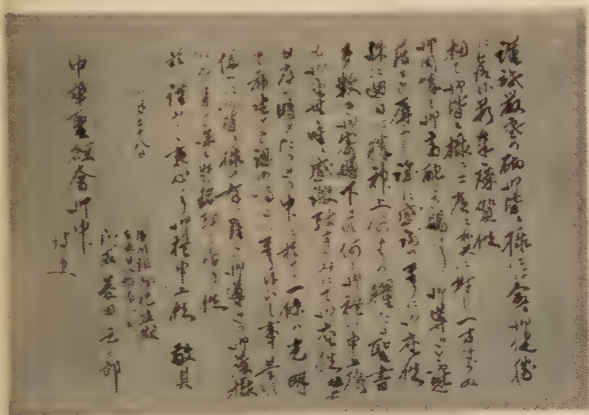


and there I had the joy of baptizing this dear old man, taught by God Himself through His Holy Word, into the great fellowship of believers. We presented him with a copy of the New Testament. We are sure no dust will gather on it. We sold over 1,300 Scripture portions in the six villages that we visited. But—there are over 60,000 people in Ku-

jinara County living in eighty different villages, the large majority of them being Poo Tai people. What of the other seventy-four villages? And what of the other nineteen counties in our district? Yes, they are our responsibility. But are they not yours, too? Pray, give, and come, that God's Word may go forth in all its saving power to these 1,250,000 people!

## Bibles for Japanese War Criminals

THE accompanying picture is of a letter written to the Bible Society by Mr. Motoshiro Hishida. Translated into English it reads:



We are very grateful that you have been giving us great kindness and sympathy with kindly guidance and encouragement. Especially for so many Holy Scriptures, which are the best spiritual food of all, given to us recently, we are so deeply moved and thankful that we can hardly find any words to express our gratitude. It is, we sincerely believe, by your gracious guidance and teaching that we have been able to see light and hope in the midst of our time of darkness.

Mr. Hishida wrote this letter on January 28, 1949 on behalf of the Japanese prisoners in the prison for War Criminals near Shanghai. He himself was before the J-Day a lieutenant general in the Japanese army. More than 300 Japanese prisoners have been ministered to by Protestant Christians of many nationalities under the direction of Rev. S. Nakayama, the Japanese evangelical pastor in Shanghai, who has also acted as China Bible House representative and worked among Japanese civilians and prisoners.

A few days before the letter was written twenty-seven of these prisoners requested and received Christian baptism. Rev. Mr. Nakayama officiated, and one American pastor and one Chinese pastor attended as witnesses in the prison where the baptismal service took place.



The center of attraction in this picture is the youngest Life Member of the American Bible Society, Andrew Reid McKinney, who lives in Londonville, New York. He is now about eight months old. But there is something more to be said about his family. A tradition began about 1880, when Andrew's great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Margaret V. Marvin, began a policy of making her grandchildren Life Members of the Society. When she died, her son, Rev. Dwight W. Marvin, carried on the tradition. His son, Dwight Marvin, who appears in the picture and who is editor of the *Record* newspapers of Troy, New York, has thus far made his seven grandchildren Life Members. They are Eric Marvin Barnes and Charles Taylor Barnes, the sons of Mr. Marvin's daughter Margaret, who lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania; and Priscilla Hovey Marvin and Philip Hobbie Marvin, the children of Mr. Marvin's son, William H. Marvin, who lives in Troy, New York, and the children of Mr. Marvin's daughter Betsy, Laurence Osbourne McKinney, Reinold Marvin McKinney and little Andrew. The others in the picture are Mrs. McKinney and two older sons, Laurence and Reinold.



# The Bible at Work in the Philippines

*A Soldier's Observations on the Society's work as he saw it in the postwar days  
of reconstruction on the Island of Panay*

BY MARSHALL B. HODGE

IT WAS in March 1946, during my months of Army service in the Philippine Islands that I had an experience which vividly demonstrated to me the wonderful way the American Bible Society is meeting its responsibility in that area.

I had been serving as assistant to Chaplain Paul Christensen for only a few weeks, when he approached me with exciting plans. Before I had been associated with him, he had made a trip by plane from our station near Manila to the city of Iloilo on the Island of Panay. There he had visited the Central Philippine College, a Baptist mission school under the leadership of one American missionary, Miss Mae Coggins. The college was struggling to bring faith and knowledge to the students who had enrolled. The prewar buildings had been razed during the war, and the school was desperately short of necessary materials. The chaplain's plan now was to return by ship, taking whatever supplies we could obtain to relieve the difficult situation.

I readily agreed to accompany him, and we set about to collect the things for our voyage and to gain the necessary permission from the authorities.

The inter-island transportation problem was acute at that time, and we discovered that there was freight in Manila destined for the college that had been unavoidably detained. There were several trunks of Miss Coggins' containing materials for her school work. There were also church relief supplies that had been delayed for many months. In the course of making arrangements to take these things with us, we went to the Elinwood Presbyterian Church in Manila. There we happened to meet Mrs. Fonger, wife of the Bible Society Secretary in Manila. This

charming and gracious lady immediately referred us to her husband, who was at his office in another part of the city. We found him in the modest quarters sometime later. We talked at length with Mr. Fonger and I was most impressed with his devotion to his task of seeing that the Scriptures are made available to the Island people. At that time the Fongers had been in the Philippines for twenty-six years, with only three visits to the United States during that long period of years. In the course of the war they had suffered internment at the hands of the Japanese and had lost their only child.

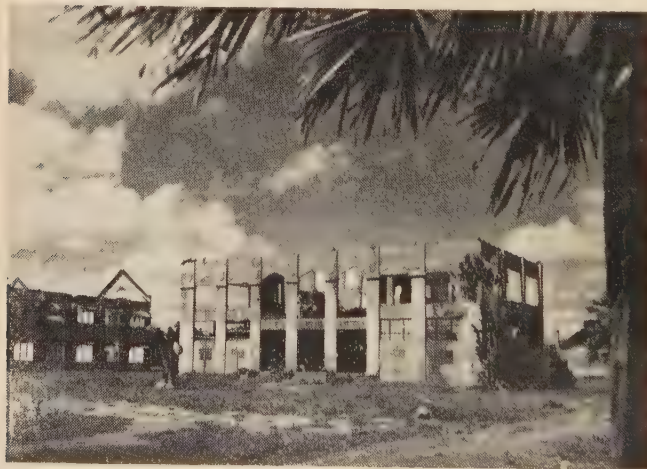
The job of reaching the natives who do not read and speak English is a difficult one, for there are many dialects in the Islands. A native from the Island of Cebu or Panay, for example, would not be able to converse with one from Luzon unless they each spoke the English language. Therefore, as Mr. Fonger explained to us, the Bible Society has met the great need by aiding missionaries in the translating of the Scriptures into many of the dialects.

As a result of our talk with Mr. Fonger we were entrusted with six precious boxes to add to our cargo, each containing 1,800 copies of the Gospel of Luke in the Panayan dialect.

Finally, with all our cargo aboard, we set sail. Our ship was relatively small, having been designed for inter-island travel, and was manned by a Filipino crew.

We discovered that the radio operator of our ship was a Protestant. His life history as he recounted illustrates the power of the Gospel in the lives of men. At one time he had been a teacher in a Catholic parochial school, but at the age of twenty he had

*Central Philippine College Buildings in ruins*



*Where College Classes were held in 1946*





ward the Gospel and been converted. Quitting his teaching, he worked for a number of years as a book-binder in both the Methodist and the Bible Society publishing houses in Manila. We found him a very intelligent and enthusiastic Bible student, and we were sure that his family of eight children were being raised in a wholesome Christian atmosphere.

Arrived at Iloilo, we got a truck to take our goods to the college. Our reception was overwhelming as the students came pouring out of the building.

Among the materials which we had managed to bring were twenty-three English Bibles and over a hundred New Testaments. As we began to unload the goods, the students eagerly and curiously watched the proceedings. When they caught sight of the copies of the Scriptures among the other things, their interest heightened. Each student wanted a copy. After hurried consultation with the native faculty members, Miss Coggins ruled that the Bibles would be kept at the college, where all would have access to them. The Testaments, on the other hand, were given out as far as they would go.

Miss Coggins told us later that most of the students

had come from Catholic backgrounds and had never had the privilege of reading the Gospel story for themselves. These were the students, she said, who were most anxious to obtain one of the few copies we had brought. It was our regret that we were not able to supply all the demand. This experience revealed the hunger that exists for a knowledge of the truths of God as revealed in the Scriptures.

So it was that, as the time came to catch an Army plane back to Manila, we rejoiced in the feeling that we had played a small part in a great work. We could visualize in our minds the blessing that would come to the natives in the back country of Panay, a blessing which would be brought when native preachers went out from the college carrying the message of Jesus Christ both on their lips and in the Gospels in the Panayan dialect with which they would be armed. Surely, the enthusiasm there would be no less great than we had found it to be among the students. As the C-47 bore us swiftly away from the tropical island, we breathed a prayer that each of its inhabitants might thus be reached with the Gospel message and that many might be saved.

## It Can Be Done

BY V. C. HODGES



Mrs. Emma L. Greene

years she has been employed as an elevator operator by the Union National Bank in Kansas City, and is a highly respected and trusted employee. She was at work, standing by the controls, when I first saw her. A bit shy and hesitant at first in talking about herself, she soon became responsive to our request for her story when she realized that we wanted it not for commercial publicity, but as a testimony to truth that might provide encouragement and help to others. Here is Mrs. Greene's testimony in her own words:

"A desire to read the Bible from cover to cover came to me in my teens, but it seemed an impossible task. I had heard sermons, many of them, but they did not seem to come out anywhere. I deemed there

was, or ought to be, a closer connection with the Heavenly throne. Even the Sunday-school lessons did not fulfill the need. In 1922 I began to read a chapter here and there every day. The idea came to me that I could read a history book, a novel, or any other book of a thousand or less pages, so why not attempt the Bible? But it was a long time before I really did it.

"On September 10, 1933 I began the great attempt. I read the Bible and paraphrased each chapter, with the thought that it might make a greater impression on my mind and that I might reread and compare my thoughts and possibly prepare a simplified story for beginners.

"I accomplished the task, after more than three years of reading, on February 12, 1937 and have reread the sacred pages again in a much shorter time with more zest, interest and understanding. I have disproved the saying that the Bible is hard to read and is dry; for, just think of it, we have in the Bible books of law, drama, great love stories, architectural instruction and, beyond all else, that great theme, the plan of salvation that each one must work out for himself."

Mrs. Greene is a member of Gregg Tabernacle A.M.E. Church in Kansas City. She has taught the beginners' class in Sunday school for nearly twenty years. She is also the treasurer of her Sunday school and a leader of the youth group.



# Building for Guatemala's Tomorrow

*About a pioneer missionary who, unlike the sight-seer of today who studies the ancient Mayan temples, gave her life for the building not made with hands, that today rises in a nation's life with great promise*

BY R. R. GREGORY

THE Friends' Mission in Guatemala took shape, grew and prospered under the leadership of Ruth Esther Smith, missionary pioneer and spiritual warrior. Born in 1870 in a Quaker home in Ohio; a school teacher in Kansas; a successful pastor and evangelist in California in her thirties, Miss Smith crowned her life-work of forty-one years, in Guatemala. Among the missionary leaders during the first fifty years of the evangelical movement in Central America, she stands at the very forefront.

I met her first in 1920, when I accepted the Caribbean Agency's Secretaryship of the American Bible Society. I looked forward to those yearly visits to Chiquimula as those of another day did who came to the Bethany home and sat at the Master's feet. There was a quiet and prayerful atmosphere about the place. She was a perfect hostess.

My last visit to Chiquimula was in the spring of 1947. Three weeks later she slipped away to her Heavenly home. I sat in the two-hundred-year old-rocker, an heirloom from her great-grandmother, and we talked about many things. She said, "My grandmother was a life member of the American Bible Society.

The framed certificate impressed me as a child and I often wondered what it was all about." Later on she found that in her own field, as in the other parts of Latin America, it was the Bible that opened the way for the evangelical movement.

While in California she heard from returning missionaries about the needs in Central America but felt that she herself could not go. One day, while walking in the streets of Oakland, God spoke two words to her: "Chiquimula, Guatemala."

In November 1906 she left for Guatemala. She said: "When I got on the train I cried; I had left a widowed mother. The Lord said to me, 'If you love Me, keep My commandments.' When I got to New Orleans he gave me John 10:4: 'And when he putteth forth His own sheep, he goeth before them.' At Puerto Barrios, Guatemala He did not give me a verse, but He said, 'Great is the responsibility of a missionary.' When I arrived at Chiquimula I became ill, and a letter from home urged me to return.

The two women missionaries prayed with me. The Lord said to me, 'In New Orleans did I not tell thee that I would go before thee? I am still with thee. From that day on there was no looking back. We rented mules and began to travel and evangelize. The Bible Society agent, Mr. Penzotti, sent us Bibles.'

Miss Smith was a great general, always marshaling her hosts against the enemy. One of the missionaries closely associated with her for many years said, "Missionaries and national workers followed her into a

thousand spiritual battles, with a confidence in her leadership born of many hard-fought victories."

Her death certificate reads, "She made no will and left no property." But did she die poor? It is true, she started at zero in a foreign country with a strange language; at zero as far as possessions were concerned; at zero in the estimation of the people for the early missionaries were looked upon as heretics to be shunned. The total property of the two women whom she joined in 1906 was a box of furniture, and to that she added a trunk and a canvas-covered cot. There were not a dozen believers in that area when they arrived. Chiquimula was twenty miles away



Ruth Esther Smith

from the railroad and reached only by horseback or on foot. The first meetings were held in private homes, but Miss Smith lived to see the work expand on the frontiers of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, and the membership grow to 5,000. Today there are fifty organized congregations and fourteen districts; two large schools, the Grade School and the Bible Training School; a clinic and a printing plant; fifteen properties, and fifty-six buildings and little chapels dotting the entire field.

Ruth Esther Smith never knew the joys of a home of her own. In that last interview she said to me "God gave me the gift of motherhood." Many called her mother. She loved with a mother's love. She took little babies in her arms and played with them; she longed that children might have a chance to go to school; she followed students with her prayers and letters; and she was solicitous for the aged. After she was gone one of the workers wrote of her, "What impelled you to come to die in a place like this? It was



because you loved us. On your soul there was no blemish."

When the news of her departure became known, telegrams poured in by the score. Friends came by train, by auto, on horseback and on foot. In the small town of Chiquimula more than a thousand followed the funeral procession. As they passed the government offices, soldiers stood at attention and the guards saluted. The procession reached the cemetery at dusk. In the quietness of the twilight hour the great company of missionaries, visitors, workers, believers and friends joined in singing: "Face to Face with Christ my Saviour." She lived and walked in the light of the Word. To such a life there is no end.

Today in this most populous of the Central American republics, in spite of much fanatical opposition, missionary activity is more influential than ever before. There is larger use of the radio. Preaching in the streets, plazas, market places and prisons goes on

without resistance and with much promise.

Translation work in the various Indian languages has in recent years made great progress. Two years ago the first New Testaments arrived for the Quiché people. The Mam New Testament has been in use for eight years. A thousand copies of each of the eighteen Scripture-reading sheets in the Conob language were prepared for the literacy campaign among that people. Similar work has been done among the Kekchi tribe.

The circulation of the Scriptures in Guatemala last year exceeded 25,300.

Many Americans visit beautiful Guatemala to see the ruins of the fabulous temples of the Mayan empire. Ruth Esther Smith went, not to see what had been done in the past, but to give her life in service to Him who alone could give Guatemala a far greater glory in the days to come. She lived to see much progress toward that high goal.

## The Way Grand Rapids Does It

THE American Bible Society's Advisory Committee in Grand Rapids consists of young people. Although not yet a year old, the Committee has an impressive record of achievement and even more impressive plans. Last fall they raised \$2,000 through society membership campaigns in various churches. They placed exhibits in the public library and several churches, leaving the church exhibits for two weeks in each location. In other churches they arranged for the showing of the Society's moving pictures, and in still others for the sale of the Society's low-priced Scriptures. Among their plans, as we went to press, was the placing of copies of the Gospel of

John in the breakfast trays in the city's hospitals on Easter morning. This fall the Committee will play the major role in the city in promoting Worldwide Bible Reading, Thanksgiving to Christmas.



Marie and Shirley De Boer, identical twins, and Clare Van Malsen, members of the Grand Rapids Advisory Committee in attendance at one of the Committee's exhibits



The American Bible Society supplies Braille Scriptures to many schools for the blind throughout the United States. The accompanying picture shows Leonna Sadler, reading from the Bible to her classmates in the State School for the Blind, Spartanburg, South Carolina.



# How it Happens in China

*The Regional Secretary of the China Bible House located in Kunming reports a personal experience that is indicative of the attitude of many intelligent Chinese today*

BY C. A. RAO



Mr. Rao

AT A Christmas dinner in 1947, in the house of a high official of the provincial government, I was invited to sit at the table next to a stranger newly arrived from the Northwest. This man had been appointed one of the inspectors for twenty-three county seats in Yunnan Province. He said to me, "I have heard so much about Christianity and its sacred Book, but up to the present I have never gone to church nor seen a Bible."—"If you can spare half an hour or so," I replied, "I should

like to invite you to our Bible House to see the kinds of Bibles we have in stock."—"Certainly," he said, "this is a golden opportunity to go with you and see the wonderful Book."

After saying good-bye to our host and hostess we went together to the Bible House. When he saw the price mark on a beautiful Bible on the shelf, he immediately took out \$600,000, Chinese National Currency (equivalent at that time to only a few American dollars), to pay for it. I said to him, "Oh no, Mr. Wen, I wish to present it to you as a souvenir of your call."—"No, sir," he said, "I must pay for it, because I never dreamed it was so cheap."

After a week or so he came back and said, "Mr. Rao, I have read through the Gospels and found that Jesus came for sinners. At the same time I found out that I was a sinner, a great sinner. I need him to save me, to save my people, and to save my country. Please take me to your church and baptize me." Immediately we went to one of the biggest churches in the city. He was introduced to the pastor of that church, who heartily welcomed and warmly received him.

On Easter Day 1948 Mr. Wen was baptized. Two days after his conversion he came to the Bible House and purchased 230 New Testaments to take to the cities he supervised, ten copies for each city, to the staffs of the county governments as souvenirs of his conversion. It is a difficult thing for any Chinese to

admit that he is a sinner; but it is a still more remarkable thing for a high official to confess before men that he is a great sinner and to seek salvation from the Lord.

## The China Bible Van



WE PRESENT here a picture of the Bible Van to which reference was made on page 59 of the April issue of the *Bible Society Record*. The van is loaded with 4,000 pounds of Scriptures and other supplies for Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Marthinson, who have just established themselves in Lanchow, Kansu where Mr. Marthinson will superintend extensive distribution in Northwest China. Among the other supplies in the load are window panes, electrical furnishings, spare parts for the car and camp cots for traveling. The car is also equipped with a heater. Mr. Marthinson is planning a trip to Tihwa, capital of Sinkiang Province, this summer with the van and will distribute Turki, Mongolian, Tibetan, Arabic and Russian as well as Chinese Scriptures en route.

In the picture the man on the extreme right is Rev. H. Williams, who drove the truck to Lanchow for the Bible Society. The man with the basket is Mr. Lee, that invaluable member of every such crew, a wizard with tools, and in this case a tinsmith as well. He has worked with Mr. Williams for many years. The others are members of the Bible House staff.



# MEMBERS' FORUM

Annual Membership in the Society is secured through gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Directorship and Memorial Membership. Particulars will be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

## From Philadelphia, with a gift of \$50:

It was good of you to remind me of my pleasure to contribute to such a worthy cause, in spreading the Good News to foreign countries.

If you would remind us all more often, I believe you would receive more. "Ask, and ye shall receive." I am in business and forgetful at times. May the Lord bless you in one of the greatest labors of love in these critical days.

## From Easton, Pennsylvania:

My parents get the *Bible Society Record* and I read a letter in the magazine from Greenville, Ill., where a woman suggested that children become members. After reading the letter I decided that it would be nice to become a member myself. I am 13 years old and the \$5 I am sending is from my tithe money.



We want *Record* readers to see this picture of George Bartley of Covington, Virginia, who recently sent the Society a gift of ten dollars, which makes him a Service Member for this year. Mr. Bartley, who is an Elder of the McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church in Covington, has contributed more than \$5,000 to his church in the past ten years through his tireless effort of collecting and selling waste

paper. At eighty years of age he says that he thinks people ought to live their religion instead of just talking about it.

George Bartley has a regular job but gives all his spare daylight time to this self-imposed task for his Lord. In the course of his labors Mr. Bartley engages in much personal work. His pastor says Mr. Bartley has introduced him to more people in the community than anyone else.

We are glad to learn that the late Tom Breneman, of radio fame, spoke of George Bartley's work from coast to coast and awarded him an "orchid" for his unique and devoted service. Far greater will be his reward in Heaven.

## From Portland, Oregon:

For four consecutive years Mr. H. A. Speer has sent \$200 to the American Bible Society. His first installment for 1949 was forwarded, as usual, by Mr. Raymond P. Targgart, Superintendent of the Pacific Northwest District of the American Sunday School Union. Mr. Targgart writes:

I might say that Mr. Speer is a shrewd and able business man, and widely traveled. His interest in Christian work is in those lines where he feels there is real accomplishment and where he can find satisfaction in giving. This he tells us is the reason for his interest in the American Bible Society and the American Sunday School Union.

## From North Carolina, with a gift of \$25:

My heart is with you; long to do more, but last year grapefruit on my grove only brought from five to ten cents a box and I do not as yet know what I can give this year. I am in my 91st year and blind, so blind that I cannot read what I am writing. I think American Bible Society is one of the most important causes. May God bless the distribution of His Word!

## From Haddonfield, New Jersey:

Just read the *Record* for February and see that I have a \$5 extra in my tithe box. It could do no better than to help someone to have a copy of the precious Word of Life. May every reader this next month feel the same, and send in an extra \$5. God bless you all abundantly!

## From Japan:

I am writing this request to you because I have an important task to ask of you.

Very recently I have come to Kobe, Japan as a soldier of the American Occupation Army.

In the time I have spent in Kobe I have met many Japanese people who are striving to learn the Christian way of life, and it is for this reason I am writing.

I have joined with two other soldiers in teaching the Bible to the best of my ability, and I find if I could get fifty daily Bible Reading lists for 1949 I believe that it would help them and myself very much in our classes. Enclosed you will find a gift of \$2 for your wonderful organization.

## From Toccoa Falls, Georgia:

I was given one of your "Daily Bible Readings—1949" pamphlets, and it has been such a blessing to me that I would like to give some of them out to some of my friends. Will you please send me 25 copies of this pamphlet?

I received one of your Bibles while I was in the service. Even though it was not directly responsible for my accepting Christ as my personal Saviour, I'm sure it was indirectly responsible for it. My wife and I are attending Toccoa Falls Institute in preparation for His service.



# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Bible Society Record

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the  
Managing Editor

FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

450 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.



Vol. 94 MAY 1949 No. 5

### Daily Bible Readings

#### JUNE

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Psalms	121	16	Psalms	95:1-8
2	Proverbs	6:6-19	17	Titus	3
3	Isaiah	11:1-9	18	Psalms	119:9-16
4	Joel	2:28-32	19	Sunday	
5	Pentecost			James	5
	Acts	2:1-12	20	Psalms	148
6	Acts	2:37-47	21	Philippians	1:15-30
7	Luke	5:27-39	22	Psalms	5
8	James	2	23	Exodus	3:7-14
9	Revelation	3:1-13	24	Matthew	3
10	Romans	2:1-11	25	Isaiah	1:11-18
11	1 Timothy	6:6-21	26	Sunday	
12	Sunday			Acts	16:5-15
	Ephesians	6:10-18	27	Nahum	1:1-7
13	Isaiah	54:11-17	28	Proverbs	4:1-18
14	Psalms	63:1-8	29	II Peter	1:16-21
15	Acts	16:16-40	30	Song of Solomon	2:10-17

#### JULY

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	1 Corinthians	9:19-27	16	II Peter	1:1-12
2	Jeremiah	18:1-10	17	Sunday	
3	Sunday Deuteronomy	11:13-21	18	Matthew	18:21-35
4	Psalms	33:12-22	19	Genesis	6
5	Exodus	19:3-8	20	Genesis	18:20-33
6	1 Timothy	4:4-16	21	Genesis	22:1-14
7	Job	38:16-33	22	Genesis	25:24-34
8	Psalms	119:169-174	23	Genesis	32:22-32
9	Luke	18:1-14	24	Genesis	39:10-23
10	Sunday		25	Sunday	
	Matthew	12:1-21		Genesis	41:8-31
11	Isaiah	43:8-21	26	James	4
12	John	4:15-30	27	Exodus	3:1-6
13	John	4:31-54	28	Exodus	14:5-31
14	Ecclesiastes	12	29	Numbers	13:17-33
15	Matthew	15:7-28	30	Joshua	6:1-20
			31	Romans	10:6-18
				Sunday	
				Matthew	18:1-20

\* \*

### The Bible on the Air

Every Friday, through September 30, Secretary Stifler will be heard twice over

the facilities of the American Broadcasting Company in his annual series entitled "Gems for Thought About the Bible." The morning program is given at 8:45 E.D.T., except over the master station WJZ in New York City, where it will be heard at 8:55 E.D.T. The evening program is heard at 11:30 E.D.T. over both WJZ and the network. If, after making due adjustment for your time zone and for the possibility of change because of Daylight Saving Time, you do not get the program, consult your local ABC station. The evening program, being transcribed, is in some cases given at other hours of the day.

Leaflets describing the series will be supplied in reasonable quantities to pastors and others who can use them. Address the American Bible Society, Radio Department, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, New York.

\* \*

We are happy to report the election of Rev. Robert W. Coe, D.D. as Executive Secretary of the Massachusetts Bible Society. Dr. Coe was called to his new work from the pastorate of the Leyden Congregational Church of Brookline, Massachusetts.

\* \*

### March Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-third year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, March 3, 1949, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Edward H. Hume, M.D.

The death on February 26 of the Rev. Dr. John Howard Raven, a member of the Versions Committee from 1922 to 1940, was reported.

It was reported that Secretary James V. Claypool had moved to Chicago to take up his duties there.

A first copy of Volume 1 of the Hebrew Old Testament (2-volume edition), which has come off the press in Germany and for which the American Bible Society donated the paper, was presented.

An increase in the distribution of the Scriptures through the Foreign Agencies for 1948 was reported, the total being 3,733,406 volumes.

There was a report on plans for the Conference of the United Bible Societies to be held in New York in June, when

delegates from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Holland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Great Britain, India, Korea, China and other countries are expected to attend.

\* \*

### April Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-third year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, April 1, 1949, at 3:30 p.m., Vice Pres. William Jay Schieffelin, Ph.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Dr. James P. Gillespie.

The Managers' Report on the One Hundred and Thirty-third Year of the Society was approved for presentation at the Annual Meeting on May 12.

Dr. James Z. Nettinga was appointed a Field Secretary as of May 1, with work in Southern California.

The resignation of Rev. Edgar Brown as Field Secretary in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was accepted with regret.

New recordings of the four Gospels, the Psalms and Proverbs, comprising records for the Blind, were presented and the Board heard a passage from the Gospel of Matthew on the Talking Bible machine.

It was reported that the year 1948 was the greatest in the Society's history in the distribution of the Scriptures to the Blind.

Grants of Scriptures in Point Barrow, Eskimo and in Kuskokwim for Alaska, on the Sale and Distribution plan were approved.

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### Next Issue

Following the custom of many years there will be no June and August issues of the *Bible Society Record*. The July issue, which will reach subscribers about August 1, will contain reports of a meeting of the United Bible Societies in New York in June.

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